

of receipt and utilisation of foreign contribution. An annual report based on the information received from such association is prepared by the Central Government and copies thereof sent to the State Governments for their information and report on violation, if any, of the provisions of the Act by the concerned associations.

[English]

Development of Animal Husbandry Sector

2213. DR. ARUN KUMAR SHARMA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the main thrust on which Ninth Plan proposals are being formulated for development of Animal Husbandry sector ;

(b) the special areas of interest identified for the North-East region and the financial outlays earmarked during the Ninth Plan period including the current financial year ;

(c) whether the proposals include establishment of a State Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Science University as proposed by the Government of Assam ;

(d) whether the Assam Livestock and Poultry Corporation Ltd. had submitted an employment generating scheme titled "Integrated District Livestock and Poultry Development Centre"; and

(e) if so, the details thereof along with the allocation made for the project during the Ninth Plan and the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) and (b) The main thrust areas on which the Ninth Plan proposals have been formulated relate to improving the production and productivity potential of the livestock with the objective of improving the income, nutrition and employment opportunities in rural areas. The Ninth Plan proposals have not yet been approved by the Planning Commission. However, for the current financial year, 1997-98., a minimum of 10% of the Department's budget has been earmarked for the North East. Special areas prioritised for North East are genetic upgradation of stock, higher allocation for piggery and poultry sectors, and strengthening of infrastructural facilities available.

(c) to (e) Schemes from Government of Assam have been received in this Ministry. The schemes are under examination, as the Ninth Plan allocation is yet to be finalised by the Planning Commission.

Child Homes

2214. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "Many of them lose their

childhood at home" appearing in the *Pioneer* dated June 11, 1997 relating to the deplorable conditions prevailing in the children Homes in Delhi;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reports therein ; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Even prior to the publication of the said Newsitem, recognising the highly unsatisfactory conditions prevalent in the Homes for Children in Delhi and other parts of the country, the Ministry of Welfare has asked the various State Governments and Union Territory Administrations responsible for their management to take remedial action. The Ministry also provides financial assistance to enable the States and Union Territories to establish and maintain facilities for the care, protection, treatment, development and rehabilitation of neglected and delinquent juveniles consistent with the provisions made in this regard in the Juvenile Justice Act, 1986.

Technology Mission of Black Pepper

2215. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the productivity of pepper/black pepper in India is low in comparison to the world standard ;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government have made any plan to improve the productivity of pepper or to set up any technology mission of pepper/black pepper in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the productivity of pepper/black pepper in the major pepper/producing centres; and

(e) if not, the steps taken by the Government to improve the productivity of pepper/black pepper at par with the world standard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The reasons of low productivity are as under :

(i) Cultivation of black pepper as inter-crop with other horticulture crops.

(ii) Old varieties of poor genotypes with low productivity.

(iii) Prevalence of disease and pest; and

(iv) Lack of adequate attention by the farmers on rejuvenation/replanting of old gardens.